

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02 OMB-01

SWF-02 OIC-04 EURE-00 SAM-01 SIL-01 /184 W

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P R 251503Z APR 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6771

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 2461

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A.

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EEC, USE

SUBJ: ARTICLE XXIV: 6 NEGOTIATIONS -- EC COMMISSION

PRESS STATEMENT

1. AT HIS REGULAR NOON BRIEFING APRIL 25, THE EC
COMMISSION SPOKESMAN OLIVI SAID THE COMMISSION YESTERDAY
AGREED ON A LIST OF ADDITIONAL TARIFF CONCESSIONS FOR
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THE UNITED STATES WHICH WOULD BE PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

BY THE EC PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TODAY IN CONNECTION WITH THE GATT ARTICLE XXIV: 6 NEGOTIATIONS.

OLIVI SAID THAT CONTRARY TO WHAT HAS APPEARED IN THE PRESS (REUTER WASHINGTON STORY APRIL 24), THERE IS NO QUESTION OF RETALIATION BY THE AMERICAN SIDE AT THIS TIME.

2. THE US, CONTINUED OLIVI, IS APPLYING TO THE GATT FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE SIX-MONTH PERIOD FOR SETTling THE XXIV: 6 ISSUE, AND THE COMMISSION HAS CONCURRED IN THIS ACTION. THERE IS, HE SAID, A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE US AND THE EC AS REGARDS INTERPRETATION OF WHEN THE SIX MONTHS BEGINS. THE US CONTENTION IS THAT IT STARTED ON JANUARY 1, 1974. THE COMMISSION CONTENDS THAT IT STARTS ONLY WHEN THE EC FORMALLY MODIFIED THE TARIFF CONCESSIONS FILED IN GENEVA ON BEHALF OF THE SIX AND SUBSTITUTES THEREFORE THE (TARIFF) POSITIONS TO BE FILED ON BEHALF OF THE NINE. THUS, IN THE EC'S VIEW, THE SIX MONTHS HAVE NOT YET BEGUN.

3. IN ITS END-1973 "GLOBAL" OFFER, SAID OLIVI, THE COMMISSION PROPOSED CONCESSIONS ON 30 ITEMS, OF WHICH 7 OR 8 WERE OF INTEREST TO THE US. THE US COUNTER-PROPOSAL COVERED 20 ITEMS. NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL GOING ON. ACCORDING TO OLIVI, THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL AGREED ON YESTERDAY REPRESENTS A "SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC GESTURE" WHICH SHOULD IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO REACH A MUTUALLY-SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH THE US REQUESTS WOULD NOT BE MET IN THEIR ENTIRETY.
MYERSON

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